



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For immediate use**

**Tuesday, 24 March 2020**

These are challenging times for us all as we come together to fight the spread of COVID-19.

It is with great disappointment that we share the Orange Sky Board, Senior Leadership Team and COVID-19 response team have made the difficult decision to pause shifts in their current form for up to the next three weeks. There is potential for this to be extended based on government advice.

We are proud and inspired by our team everyday and are committed to finding innovative ways to keep the most vulnerable people in our community connected over this time.

Our volunteers have been doing such an amazing job supporting our friends (people experiencing homelessness) during this difficult time, and this decision was not made lightly.

Now more than ever, we are reminded about the importance of keeping our community safe, as well as the care and compassion of the people around us. Our main responsibility at this time is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our friends, volunteers, fellow service providers and the general public.

Any future decision about getting our shifts back up and running will be guided by the most up to date and reliable information from the Australian Government. At this stage, our remote services in Palm Island, Lockhart River and Maningrida will continue to operate as normal.

For anyone who has followed our journey over the past few years, you will know that something like this will not stop us from delivering our mission to positively connect communities. We continue to be incredibly grateful for the community's support, as we work hard to deliver our mission and support our friends doing it tough.

To find out more please connect on social media or via our website here: [orangesky.org.au/covid-19](https://orangesky.org.au/covid-19)

**-Ends-**

**For media information please contact Megan Groundwater at Orange Sky:**

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**Website Statement on COVID-19:**

[orangesky.org.au/covid-19](https://orangesky.org.au/covid-19)



**About Orange Sky:**

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation providing free mobile laundry and shower services to people doing it tough. Established in 2014 by two best mates, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, Orange Sky began as an idea to help some of the 116,000 people experiencing homelessness across Australia. Nic and Lucas won Young Australian of the Year for their efforts to support the community in 2016.

Fast forward five years and Orange Sky now has 32 vans operating across every state and territory in Australia, providing 10,000kg of laundry and 1,500 hours of conversation a week to people in need.

To date Orange Sky has:

- Completed more than 1.4 million kilograms of washing;
- Provided more than 14,500 warm showers; and
- Facilitated over 222,500 hours of genuine and non-judgemental conversation on our six orange chairs.

**For more information please see Orange Sky on:**

- Website - [www.orangesky.org.au](http://www.orangesky.org.au)
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/OrangeSkyAU>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/OrangeSkyAU>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/orangeskyau>